the loan melas and demanded that banks should be the sole authority in deciding the beneficiaries under rural development schemes; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDA FALETRO): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that in the reports submitted to it by tht various Chairmen of Public Sector Banks after their field visits, it was indicated that due to several deficiencies in the functioning of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and District Industries Centre (DICs), the quality of bank lending was becoming poorer. The RBI has further reported that they did not receive any information relating to criticism of loan melas. The Chairman of Public Sector Banks had suggested that the selection of beneficiaries under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and under the Scheme for providing Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) be delinked from the DRDAs and DICs respectively and be left to the committee of bankers, to avoid the multiplicity of agencies dealing with the financing of these programmes.

Grant of cash compensatory support to 100 per cent export oriented units on their finished products.

128. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to answer to the Unstarred Question 2546 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on the grant of Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) to 100 per cent Export Oriented Units on their finished products; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) No Sir, No final decision has been taken on the matter.

Alleged sati incident in a village of U.P.

129. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports regarding an alleged Sati incident in Mihir Kheria Village, Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and, what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that a case was registered on 10.1.1988 at Police Station Jakhlon, District Lalitpur (U.P.) in this regard. Enquiries revealed that Smt. Shakuntala, wife of deceased Harpal Singh who had

expired on 7.1.88 allegdly committed suicide by burning herself sometime on the night of 9|10.1.1988. Her dead-body was found near the spot where her husband was cremated two days earlier. Her postmortem was done by two doctors on 10.1.88 and the reason of the death was found to be asphyxia and suffocation as a result of burn. According to the doctors in a case burning in the open air-death due to asphyxia and suffocation is not possible. The State Government have intimated that enquiries into the case are being done by the State CID.

Declaration of Tripura as a disturbed area

130. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire Tripura State has been declared as a disturbed area;

(b) if so, whether the State Government was consulted before the decision was taken to this effect; and

(c) if not, what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government were repeatedly sounded to declare the whole of Tripura as 'disturbed area'. This was suggested by the Home Minister to the then Chief Minister on 6.1.87 at New Delhi but he agreed to declare only certain border areas as 'disturbed area.' Consequently two small pockets of 5 KMs depth on eastern and northen borders were declared as 'disturbed area' on 24.1.87 by the State Government of Tripura. A suggestion for declaring the whole of Tripura as 'disturbed area' was again made by the Home Minister to the then Chief Minister in his letter dated 31st December, 1987. The proposal to declare whole of Tripura as 'disturbed area' was also discussed by the Home Minister with the then Chief Minister on 4|1|1988 at Agartala but he did not favour this step. It was, however, agreed that there should be a task force to counter the insurgency and that BSF should cover not only the border posts but also 15KM inside the State on Chittagong Hill Tracts—Tripura border for counter-insurgency. The matter was again reviewed and discussed by the Minister of State for Home Affairs with the officers of the Tripura Government at Agartala on 23|24-1-88. All the options that were available to the Central Government and State Government were discussed. Following these discussions and taking into consideration the growing incidents of violence by TNV and to check the main ingress and agress routes of TNV, the Central Government declared on 26.1.88, a 15-KM belt along the Tripura-Chitagong Hill Tract border as 'disturbed area'. The stepping up of violence by TNV in all the districts of Tripura showed that extremists were deeply entrenched in whole of Tripura. The continued violence of the TNV, the threat of retaliation by non-tribals and the calls of TNV to disrupt elections necessitated stronger measures to deal with the activities of TNV. The Central Government was, therefore, left with no option but to declare whole of Tripura as 'disturbed'.

Meeting on GNLF issue

131. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of meetings were held between the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister of West Bengal and some persons representing GNLF;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present stage of the talk to resolve the problems posed by the GNLF?